

fine series of Paradise-birds, consisting at that date of 368 specimens, to which no doubt many additions have been since made.

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XXV.—*Obituary.*

THE REV. ALFRED CHARLES SMITH, M.A., who died on the 7th of December last, was one of the fourteen recipients of the honour of Membership of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1864-65, when the number was raised from twenty to thirty-four Ordinary Members. At that time he was Rector of Yatesbury, Wilts. His first important contribution to 'The Ibis' seems to have been "A Sketch of the Birds of Portugal" (1868, pp. 428-460), the first compendious account of the avifauna of the western portion of the Peninsula, a region which differs widely from Spain in its natural features. The list was reprinted, with additions by Prof. Barboza du Bocage, in Mr. Smith's 'Narrative of a Spring Tour in Portugal,' a very pleasantly-written book; as were, indeed, all Mr. Smith's blends of travel, archæology, and natural history. This agreeable mixture was especially noticeable in his principal work, 'The Birds of Wiltshire,' published in 1887, and noticed in our volume for 1888 (p. 370). His writings were not always severely scientific, but they were very readable, and all who knew Mr. Smith will regret the disappearance of one of the good old school of genial naturalists.